

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/658,046
Reply to Office Action dated September 13, 2005

PATENT
450100-02700

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present After-Final Amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application and does not require further search.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6, which are independent, are hereby amended. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification and Drawings, specifically on pages 9-11 and figures 6 and 7. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,018,363 to Horii (hereinafter, merely "Horii") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,256,068 to Takada et al. (hereinafter, merely "Takada").

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Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

An image pickup apparatus...

a brightness processing circuit which receives the outputted signals from the means for generating signals and performs brightness processing thereon; and

a chromatic processing circuit which receives the synthesized signal from the synthesis means and performs color processing thereon,

wherein said outputted signals are delay signals sent to said preprocessing circuit containing a plurality of adders which compiles a sum of said delay signals and a $\frac{1}{2}$ multiplier which halves the sum compiled from said plurality of adders,

wherein said preprocessing circuit outputs said sum halved by said $\frac{1}{2}$ multiplier to said brightness processing circuit, and

wherein said preprocessing circuit sends said delay signals as the synthesized signal from the synthesis means to said chromatic processing circuit.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Horii relates to an image sensing apparatus with an optical-axis defecting device. Further, as understood by Applicants, the cited portions of Horii teach that a image signal that has been converted to luminance two color difference data is converted to analog signal and afterward, that same two color difference signal then modulated into a chromatic signal indicative of saturation. These two steps happen sequentially, wherein the output of the first is the input of the second.

As understood by Applicants, Takada relates to image data format conversion apparatus that changes formats or attributes when displaying graphics images and moving pictures used for computers, AV apparatuses, and cable television.

Applicants respectfully submit that Horii and Takada, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants

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respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of an image pickup apparatus wherein said outputted signals are delay signals sent to said preprocessing circuit containing a plurality of adders which compiles a sum of said delay signals and a $\frac{1}{2}$ multiplier which halves the sum compiled from said plurality of adders, wherein said preprocessing circuit outputs said sum halved by said $\frac{1}{2}$ multiplier to said brightness processing circuit, and wherein said preprocessing circuit sends said delay signals as the synthesized signal from the synthesis means to said chromatic processing circuit, as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portions of Horii do not teach a brightness processing circuit which receives the outputted signals from the means for generating signals and performs brightness processing thereon and a chromatic processing circuit which receives the synthesized signal from the synthesis means and performs color processing thereon.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is believed to be patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above, independent claim 6 is also believed to be patentable.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 6 are patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent on a dependent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

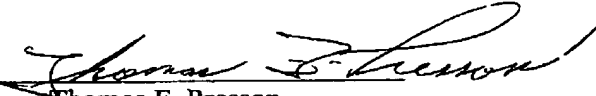
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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